

SCIENTISTS CONVENE

THE SUMMER scientific season is upon us. For the first time since 1938 the Annual Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists will be held at the Academy. Sessions are scheduled for June 28 through July 1, with a special "Aquarium Symposium" set for the opening day. The preceding week several members of the Academy staff will be in Pasadena attending the meetings of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Robert C. Miller, director of the Academy, is Secretary of the Pacific Division.

GIFFORD HONORED

DR. EDWARD W. GIFFORD, professor of anthropology emeritus, University of California, was honored by a surprise banquet May 21, in Berkeley, on the occasion of his retirement as director of the U. C. Museum of Anthropology. Dr. Gifford was one of the members of the Academy's 1905-06 Expedition to the Galapagos Islands.

MORE GARNETT PHOTOS

SIXTEEN AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS by William A. Garnett, of Altadena, Calif., are now on exhibit in Lovell White Hall. Garnett, as a flying photographer, specializes in the design and pattern of landscapes. Three of his unusual photographs were published in the March-April 1955 issue of *Pacific Discovery*.

ANALYZING A SOLAR ECLIPSE

THE ASTRONOMY SECTION will meet at 8 p. m., Wednesday, June 22, in the Student Lecture Room. Leon E. Salanave, in charge of the Section, will discuss the June 20 eclipse of the sun, one of the longest and most remarkable in several centuries. Its circumstances, according to Salanave, can be related to other similar eclipses by an extraordinary coincidence of astronomical cycles called the Saros, a phenomenon which he will explain. Salanave will also report on any data about the eclipse that he can gather in the two days between its occurrence and the meeting.

NEW MEMBERS

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS were elected by the Council at its meeting of May 11, 1955:

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

Dr. John Bertrand
Mrs. A. H. Brawner
Mr. Richard Coblenz
Miss Joanne Taylor

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Alfred Frankenstein
Mr. Ralph S. Williams
Mr. O. A. Winquist

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Christian de Guigne III

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Kathleen Lee

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C.A.S.—Moss Photo

A. S. GETTEN AND NEW ORRERY
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June Announcement

THE REGULAR JUNE MEETING will be held at 8:15 p.m., June 14, in the May Treat Morrison Auditorium. Dr. R. A. Stirton, chairman, Department of Paleontology, University of California, and a Fellow of the Academy, will give an illustrated lecture:

"AUSTRALIA'S POUCHED MAMMALS"

Dr. Stirton spoke at the Academy just a year ago when he reported on the 1953 trip to Australia during which he hit the jack pot in *Diprotodon* fossils. The essentials of this same story were also covered in the March-April 1954 issue of *Pacific Discovery*.

Dr. Stirton has since been to Australia, but in this lecture he will temporarily desert the ranks of the paleontologists to describe the whole vast array of living Australian marsupials. The evolutionary process during ages of isolation in the land down under has given these unique animals various adaptive modifications. It is these modifications and the ways in which they approach placental mammals with which we are more familiar that intrigue Dr. Stirton.

In illustrating his talk Dr. Stirton will show Kodachrome slides he has taken himself and a number taken from famous paintings of Australia's emblematic mammals. His subjects will range from pouched animals the size of our smallest mice to giant extinct species the size of rhinoceroses, such as the *Diprotodon*s. Adaptation-wise they run the gamut from molelike creatures to gliding animals like our flying squirrels, and even to anteaters. Small or large, however, they are a peaceful lot, Stirton says. There are few predators among them. The larger marsupials are inoffensive leaf- or grass-eaters, and the smaller ones seem to prefer insects to one another.

Dr. Stirton will also briefly describe his recent expedition, a journey that took him from Adelaide along the Birdsville Track to Cooper's Creek; and across southern Queensland to Darling Downs, one of the most famous fossil localities in the world.

The public is cordially invited.

"SCIENCE IN ACTION" GOES NATIONAL

"SCIENCE IN ACTION" is to be distributed on a nation-wide basis by Television Programs of America. The announcement was made by Dr. Robert C. Miller, director of the Academy, and Michael M. Sillerman, executive vice-president of Television Programs of America.

The Academy program during its five years on the air here has won two dozen awards and has become a public institution in itself to Northern California

viewers. Each year it has been voted the best local live television show on the air by readers of the *San Francisco Examiner*.

"Science In Action" has been shown experimentally in limited markets for the last two years, and according to Benjamin Draper, executive producer, this experience has been invaluable in helping to build the program to nation-wide scope and appeal. Both Dr. Earl S. Herald, program host, and Dr. Miller, under whose supervision the show is produced, consider the wider distribution of the program to be a unique opportunity for the Academy to be of service in science.

American Trust Company, which has sponsored the show since its inception, will continue as the home sponsor. In fact, Dr. Miller points out, it has been the continuing interest of American Trust Company in the program that has made this expansion possible.

DELIVERS ORRERY TO BUHL

GEORGE W. BUNTON, curator of astronomy, left May 24 to attend the American Association of Museums meeting in Washington, D. C. He is chairman of the association's planetarium section.

At the Buhl Planetarium, Pittsburgh, Bunton will deliver a projection orrery which has been built for that institution by the Academy's Instrument Shop. The orrery, like the one in operation in Alexander F. Morrison Planetarium, is the work of A. S. Getten of the shop staff. There, however, the similarity ends. Getten, who can never resist improving a product, has simplified his design. The new orrery projects the sun and the four inner planets with only two projectors—instead of the five in the old one. Aside from this the orrery has a year counter on it, which will be an aid to the planetarium lecturer demonstrating the device. Slight corrections have been made in the speeds of the planets, and their orbits are more faithfully reproduced.

"ASTRO-BOTANICAL" EXPEDITION REPORTS

ON MAY 16, curator of botany Thomas Howell and associate curator of astronomy Leon Salanave journeyed to King City, Monterey County, where they were met by a U. S. Forest Service jeep which took them to the 5862-foot summit of Junipero Serra Peak, highest point on the South Coast Range. After a ride of two and a half hours through chaparral on the jeepway, the Academy scientists found themselves atop the Santa Lucia mountains, in a grove of Coulter and sugar pines which became their camp for three days.

By day, Howell collected plants for the herbarium, and by day and night, Salanave tested the astronomical seeing conditions with a portable telescope. Due to a strong north wind, atmospheric conditions were not as good as they might have been—although some very fine viewing was had. Botany, on the other hand, fared magnificently. Among the botanical trophies collected was the rare species of mallow, *Sidalcea hickmanii*. Also noteworthy was a record-sized Coulter pine cone, nearly 15 inches long. Both Howell and Salanave are agreed this interesting, wild region merits further exploration.